



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER U.S. ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT ADMITS TO
PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this morning, 27-year-old Gary Alan Hernandez, Jr., a former First Lieutenant with the 208th Signal Company at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas, pled guilty to producing and possessing child pornography.

Appearing before United States District Judge Philip Martinez, Hernandez pleaded guilty to one count of production and one count of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of children. Hernandez, who currently is in federal custody, faces no less than fifteen years and up to thirty years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count. Sentencing is scheduled for 8:30am on March 5, 2007.

By pleading guilty, Hernandez admitted that on April 16, 2005, he enticed a minor female to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of photographing such activity and distributing the photographs via the Internet.

This undercover investigation began in February 2005, when the defendant was looking for someone online to coordinate distribution and sales of sexually explicit photographs of minors he produced. On August 3, 2005, agents with the El Paso division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence. Agents seized several computers, computer media, three cellular phones and several digital and film cameras. A forensic review discovered more than 600 photographic images and one video of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct located on the defendant's computers.

Assistant United States Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr., and Laura Franco Gregory are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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